

## SOUTHFIELD SEPS ON HORRORS.

A BURGLAR—A REAL ONE WITH A GUN—DISCOVERS THE TOWN.

Dopes Contractor Nick Walsh's Pluck of Dogs and Tunnels Large Chunks of Gold From Him—No Other Citizens Got a Chance to Practice Anti-Burglary.

TUXEDO, Aug. 1.—Up Southfield was something awful happened on Sunday morning, and since then the folks are sleeping on shotguns and blunderbusses. It was the first time that anything awful ever happened at Southfield. Southfield is just big enough to sneak into an Orange county map. "She," as the natives call her, is about a mile and a half north of Tuxedo on the line of the Erie Railroad. No one has ever been born there nor has any one ever died there, and no one ever got married there, for the grown folks of Southfield got married before the town was born. The young folks of the place hope to get married when Southfield grows old enough to own a post office for the transmission of love letters.

Vice-President Roosevelt's chum, Joe Murray, Deputy State Superintendent of Public Buildings, is spending the summer there. Nick Walsh, the wealthy contractor, lives there, and so does Hiram Botts, the Jersey oysterman, and Mr. Davis, who has a house near Mike Mead's place. Mike was one of the leading inhabitants of Southfield until E. H. Harriman paid \$114,000 to him for 2,000 acres of the Wild Cat property. Mike's home is still there, and even after he started west on a business trip the Citizens of Southfield continued to meet at Mike's barn every evening at twilight. They had no other place to meet, and it must have been about milking time in Orange county Saturday evening when Joe Murray strolled over the fields to the barn, for, as Mr. Murray puts it, "a burglar was returning from the pasture to meet some milkmaids near the old mill. Murray went into the barn and took the chair seat on Mike Mead's new harrow. Nick Walsh was there, seated cross-legged on the elder press.

"Hello, Joe," said Nick, as he shifted his right leg over to the left. "I've been waiting for you. What's new?"

"Nothing," said Murray, lighting a pipe which has never been smoked in Albany, "nothing new that I know of."

"Well," said Nick, "I have something to tell you. I saw two strange cows down the road this afternoon and I've been wondering where they came from. One of them had a white forehead and looked something like a cow I saw up near the south gate of Tuxedo a few days ago. But here comes Hiram Botts. We'll ask him about it."

"Do you know," said Murray, "this is the quietest place on earth? I think it was the last place made. Why, we haven't even got anything to talk about. Hello, Hiram, what do you think about it?"

"Gentlemen," remarked Hiram, "I got something to tell you. It ain't a strange cow, either. It's about a strange man. I saw a stranger walking along the railroad track a little while ago and he don't belong 'round here either. Something's up!"

"May be a robber," said Murray.

"Well," replied Hiram, "if he comes nosing 'round my place I'll fill him full of buckshot."

"Can't be possible that a crook could do this place," said Mr. Walsh. "But you know what I'd do if I saw a burglar get into my house? I'd kill him on the spot."

"I would too," said Mr. Murray.

"I scarcely know what I would do," said Hiram. "Here's Jim Davis; we'll ask him about it. Jim, what would you do if one of 'em 'ere burglar fellows came snaking 'round your place? What would you do?"

"Mr. Davis," said Jim, "I'd tell you what I'd do. I'd take everything he owned and then throw him in the goose pond."

"Well," said Walsh, "I'll fill him full of holes and throw him on the dog on the lawn. That big Ben of mine, the Siberian bloodhound, wouldn't ask for anything better than a big fat burglar. And Cesar, the big Dane, I'd eat more burglar in a minute than a burglar could eat dogs in a year. Then the other four, Battle, the bull terrier, and the rest of 'em, they'd come in for burglar legs and in great shape. Well, gentlemen, I'll see you to-morrow."

The barn party broke up. At 8 o'clock that night Southfield was slumbering. There is no gas.

The little brass clock in the dining room table in Dick Walsh's house had just struck 2 when Nick was awakened by hearing some one moving about in his room. Jumping out of bed, Mr. Walsh turned up the light and shouted "Who's there?"

"I'm here," replied a broad-shouldered man, who thrust a pistol in the face of the contractor. "Just back up and keep your trap closed or I'll send you to hell in a drop! Not a word! If you dare make a move I'll shoot you dead!"

"What do you want here?" asked Contractor Walsh, backing toward the bed.

"What do you want?" "Wealth," replied the man with the pistol.

"Well," said Walsh, "I have no ready money here, but I'll write you out a check. Checks won't go with me, but I'll give you the burglar. I'm here for cash. Give it to me quick or I'll kill you anyhow. Quick, I say!"

Just what Contractor Walsh did after that he only knows. His friends are of the opinion that he presented to the burglar a large sum of money. He denied this to-day on his way to New York for the purpose of hiring a few private detectives. Murray, who was with him, said that he was of the opinion that Mr. Walsh handed over \$50. When the burglar was leaving the house he informed the contractor that one of his pals had made arrangements to kill a member of the Walsh family in case Mr. Walsh gave any trouble. That the burglar would carry this threat into execution Contractor Walsh permitted the burglar to leave the house as quietly as he came. Then, when the burglar was alone, the burglar had gone he used his lungs to good advantage and summoned the citizens of Southfield to his aid. They arrived with pistols, shotguns and blunderbusses and kept up a hunt all night for the burglar. But they were unable to get any trace of him.

At daylight Mr. Walsh and the other citizens of the town went in search of Mr. Walsh's six big dogs. They found Ben, the Siberian bloodhound, asleep beneath the window through which the burglar had entered. Cesar was asleep on the lawn at the rear of the house. The bulldog and the others were found sleeping on the road opposite the house. Pieces of meat on which some sports drug had been sprinkled were found on the lawn all around the house. Mr. Walsh was unable to arouse the dogs for several hours. But now the folks up Southfield way have something to talk about.

"And I'm glad of it," said Joe Murray, to-day for Mr. Murray has been an active man all his life.

To-morrow the folks at Southfield will organize a life and property protective association and New York detectives will be hired to do what some of the Southfielders declared they would do in case a burglar appeared in Southfield.

## COULDN'T STAND LOSS OF BANJO.

Friends Say Grief Over Its Loss Hastened Aged Negro's Death.

Henry Williams, an aged negro, died on Tuesday at his home, 1 Concord street, Brooklyn. His neighbors say that his death was hastened through grief over the loss of a favorite banjo which had long been his sole means of support. On the day preceding his death, his banjo and which had been sent to him by some relatives in Georgia, were stolen. The old man didn't bewail the disappearance of the money but couldn't be consoled for the loss of the banjo.

Real Estate in Westchester Co. and the Borough of Bronx.

See Sunday's SUN, Aug. 1, Ad.

## THEATRICAL NOTES.

Daniel Frohman and Lee Shubert Returned Yesterday From Europe.

Daniel Frohman and Lee Shubert, the theatrical managers, returned yesterday from Europe, and Julia Marlowe and Henry E. Dixey, the star actors, sailed. Mr. Frohman said:

"I consider my most important deals the purchase of a play by Arthur W. Pinero and the engagement of Jan Kubelik, a young Bohemian pianist who will make his debut here at Carnegie Hall in December. The Pinero piece is a five-act drama that will have Fay Davis in its principal rôle in London. My stock company will act it here. I have not decided whether my organization will act at Daly's or the Lyceum, but probably at the former theatre. I have bought plays by Sydney Grundy, Edward Morton, J. Comyns Carr and Guy Boothby."

"I will, of course, continue to manage Edward H. Sothern and the Lyceum and Daly's Theatre. Mr. Sothern will start his season at the Lyceum on Sept. 10, producing 'Richard Lovelace,' and later reviving 'Hamlet.' Cecelia Loftus will be his leading actress. Daly's will reopen on the same date with 'The Messenger Boy,' a London Gaiety farce, which is expected to last until December. It will probably be followed by my stock company, headed by Hilda Spooner, and including Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walcott, Robert Loraine, Arthur Forrest, William Courtney, Allison Shipworth, Beatrice Morgan, James Lee Finney and Rhoda Cameron. The Lyceum season will start early in September with my new star, Bertha Gailand in 'Forest of Love.' Harry B. Stamford will be his chief actor. Following Miss Gailand, Annie Russell will start an engagement with a revival of 'A Royal Family,' and later produce a new play."

Lee Shubert was abroad on pleasure, although he negotiated the deal for the last Sullivan opera, 'The Emerald Isle,' which he and his brothers will produce here. He made some other purchases abroad, including 'In the Soup,' a farce by the late Ralph Lumley. He is quite recovered from his serious illness, which he suffered in London. He will continue with his brothers to manage the Herald Square, and the Casino, starting in May."

When Marie Goeppert was making her entrance in the second act of 'The Strangers' last night in an automobile, it slipped and fell, giving her a job, but not making any serious effect on her singing voice. The press agent was much agitated.

Alce Johnson, of late with the Frawley company in San Francisco, will be the leading actress with the Dornay company at the Murray Hill next season. Lillian Lawrence, who will have the feminine leadership with the Greenwalls at the American, has been several years at the Castle Square, Boston. Etta Butler and Sandoz Milliken will be belles, two girls expelled from a seminary for a sensational escapade, in 'The Liberty Bells.' Jessie Busley will be with John Drew in 'The Second in Command.' Annie Russell will be the heroine of 'The Girl and the Judge,' a new play by Clyde Fitch. Ethel Elster will be the Puritan maid in 'Stanislaus Stange' and 'The Winding of Priscilla.' Constant Coquelin will be a Falstaff in a French piece made up from the Shakespearean depictions of the fat braggart. Julia Marlowe is having a Joan of Arc drama written by Stephen Phillips. Alva Houston Cody, a Chicago woman of social distinction, has gone on the vaudeville stage.

Joseph Holland was engaged yesterday by Charles Frohman to play the part of the King of Spain in William Faverman's production of 'A Royal Rival' at the Criterion.

Maudie Caswell and Arthur Arnold, vaudeville performers, seen recently at the Paradise Gardens, were engaged by the Casino, which is expected to appear at the Théâtre des Folies Marigny, Paris, on Aug. 15. After a month there, they will appear at the Wintergarten, Berlin, for a like period.

Edwin Arden has been engaged for the leading part in Sadie Martin's production of 'The King of the Sea' at the Broadway in November.

Viola Gillette has been engaged for the Drury Lane fairy extravaganza of 'The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast,' at the Broadway in November.

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## BRIDGE IS BADLY NEGLECTED.

SO DECLARE WRITERS OF TWO SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

Parts of the Structure That Were of Crude Design and Not Intended to Bear Their Present Load Said to Have Gone to Ruin for Lack of Proper Care.

Current issues of publications devoted to engineering contain exhaustive comment upon the causes of the breakdown of the Brooklyn Bridge. Writers in these journals agree that neglect was one of the contributing causes of the crumbling of the structure. The Scientific American does not minimize the seriousness of the accident. Among other things it says:

"The collapse of a portion of the Brooklyn Bridge was a serious event that might easily have become a great public calamity. For several hours, and for aught we know for several days, a portion of the northern roadway of the bridge, measuring 70 by 30 feet, was entirely detached from its supporting cable and was only held up by the indirect support which it derived from the adjoining roadway."

"We do not hesitate to say that had a few more adjacent suspenders failed, the floor under the north cable would have ripped from the cable with a cumulative action throughout the whole length of the main span of the bridge."

The Scientific American attributes the giving way of the bridge to deterioration of the trunnion blocks or hinged bearers of the suspender rods. It says that these bearers the suspender is hinged at the bottom so that it is free to have a pendulum motion which mitigates the strain of changes in temperature and of heavy loads. After referring to signs of neglect which appear in the rocker bearers the Scientific American adds:

"We believe that originally it was intended to have these hinged joints lubricated, but it is certain that for a great many years no such care has been taken of them. The water has been allowed to run and there is no doubt that with poor workmanship, severe rusting and much heavier loading than was intended, the trunnions have been turned into a mass of rusted and a heavy bending strain has been brought upon the suspenders, the bending being first in one direction and then in the other."

It was only a matter of time before these reversed bending strains caused fracture to commence at the root of the threads and work toward the center of the rods until the section of the remaining metal was too small to resist the natural tensional strain due to the load, and the rod parted.

While the Scientific American thinks that the floor system (including floor beams, stringers and stiffening trusses) of the bridge are sufficiently strong to carry with safety the present weight of the structure, it asserts that the system is antiquated and not at all of the kind that would be built in a modern suspension bridge. Continuing the writer says:

"We have said that the suspenders are amply strong for their work, but in saying this we draw attention to the fact that the method of attaching suspenders to the floor system, particularly at the center of the main span, is poor and cheap in design and liable to rapid deterioration unless it is carefully watched and carefully painted."

It is imperative on the part of the bridge authority to inspect carefully every one of the total 240 suspenders at the center of the bridge. Not only should they be inspected, but some new and less crude design of connection should be put in. Care should be taken to inspect carefully the connection of the wearing parts and the joints should be so covered in and painted that the destructive effects of weather would be reduced to a minimum. As it is the weather has full play and this important organic element of the bridge has about as much friction as a barn-door hinge.

The Engineering News, after an inspection of the broken parts of the bridge, by expert members of its staff, arrives at these conclusions:

"The accident in itself was not serious in its consequences, but it is a very serious in the possibilities of a more wholesale failure which it indicated. The facts are that a poor design was adopted for the lower hinge connections of the suspension rods, and that through carelessness of this design were augmented by lack of lubrication and by rust. The first fault was perhaps unavoidable at the time the members were designed, but there is no reason why the faulty bearing should not have been kept in the highest possible order of efficiency since they were fully recognized to be especially in need of care if they were to work satisfactorily. It is a fact that may be pointed out that it would have been a simple matter at any time during several years past to have replaced these rods by a more approved design of suspender."

## STRUCK BY A FAST MAIL TRAIN.

A Girl Who Perished in Crossing a Track on Her Wheelchair Mortally Injured.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Aug. 1.—Miss Ida Curtis, a stenographer employed at the General Electric Company's works in this city, was struck by the westbound fast mail passenger train at the New York Central Railroad crossing this afternoon, as she was attempting to cross the tracks ahead of the train. Miss Curtis was run over by the train, and she was killed. The body of the girl was carried for a distance of thirty feet and thrown against the Trestle. The body was found on the left side and back of her head and breaking her left arm. She was taken to the hospital, where it is expected that she will die. The girl's father, who was also badly injured, will be recovered.

## MOTHER CAN'T GET CHILD BACK.

Court Decides She Is Better Off With Family Which Has Taken Care of Her.

BALTIMORE, Md., Aug. 1.—Judge Hanlan decided to-day that a woman who had taken care of a child for four years had a better right to it than its mother. Four years ago the Fresh Air Society sent Carrie Osterkamp, a child of 12, to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Catherine Baker at Coleville for a few days. The child wanted to stay longer and Mrs. Baker was willing to keep her. Mrs. Osterkamp made no objection and Carrie has remained there since.

When Carrie grew to an age at which she could be of use, her mother tried to get her to come home again, but the girl refused to come. Mrs. Osterkamp sued out a writ of habeas corpus. The testimony to-day indicated that the girl is better off in the country than she would be in the home her mother occupies in common with five or six other families.

## PRIEST SAVED FROM DROWNING.

Father Flynn Was Unconscious When Dragged In on the Beach.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Aug. 1.—The Rev. Father J. H. Flynn, a Baltimore priest, was saved from drowning this morning. He was unconscious when brought in and remained in that condition for over an hour. He was swimming some distance from shore and apparently became exhausted or was seized with cramps. His desperate struggles in the water attracted the attention of some bathers. Guards on the beach first and dragged him in on the beach.

## Women Own Virginia.

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 1.—The Auditor in preparing a report for the Constitutional Convention has discovered that there are 95,000 white males and 8,600 colored males in Virginia who pay taxes on property.

The auditor also discovered that the State has a surplus of 100,000 acres of land. He made the surprising discovery that more females than males pay taxes on that amount.

## MADRID OF BROWN BESS.

She Wandered Off and Left Belle and Farmer Keenan Disconsolate.

Farmer Keenan of Keenan's Farm, Coney Island avenue, Parkville, L. I., has lost his cow Brown Bess. It was exactly a week ago yesterday that Bess strayed. Previous to that she had been everything that a cow should be, gentle, obedient and generous almost to a fault, for she gave fourteen quarts of milk every day. She was kindhearted to her pasture mate, Belle. Oftentimes she was awakened from her night's sleep by the sounds of a distant fighorn and mistook them for her mate's moo. Upon such occasions she would shake her head mournfully, as if to say, "Poor Belle, it must hurt," and amble over to the other end of the field to be of what comfort she could. Belle misses Bess.

On the day of her disappearance Bess was nosing about the field in search of four-leaf clovers and other tid-bits when she caught sight of something that brought out a "moo" of surprise. Some one had torn five pickets from the fence on the Coney Island avenue side and there was a gaping hole. Life in a great city! Did she dare? Bess looked up and down the road, and then, seized by some awful impulse, ducked her head and walked through the hole. It was not until some time after that Farmer Keenan discovered his loss. When he did he reported to the police that his Brown Bess had either strayed or been abducted and that his Brown Bess was a cow.

The police sent out a general alarm, and detectives have succeeded in gathering some stray reports to Brown Bess. She was not until some time after that Farmer Keenan discovered his loss. When he did he reported to the police that his Brown Bess had either strayed or been abducted and that his Brown Bess was a cow.

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